

# Patent Claims

1. A fault message system comprising a number of production units which are arranged spatially distributed and which have means for generating and indicating a fault signal, a fault alarm box which is constructed for receiving and for forwarding fault messages and one or more receiving devices for receiving and indicating fault messages, characterized in that a number of production units (1) are arranged to form at least one group (I-III), in that each production unit (1) is associated with a transmitting unit (3) for the wireless transmission of the fault signals, in that each group (I-III) is associated with a data receiving unit (4), in that the data receiving units (4) are connected to the fault alarm box (6) and in that the fault alarm box (6) is connected to a process computer (9).

2. The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the data receiving unit (4) has means (5) for indicating the fault messages.

3. The fault message system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the fault alarm box (6) is connected to the process computer (9) via a network connection (8).

4. The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the network connection (8) is a LAN connection.

5. The fault message system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the process

computer (9) is connected to other computers (12) via a further network (11).

6. The fault message system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the fault alarm box (6) has a data editing unit (6a).

7. A method for outputting fault messages from a number of production units which are arranged spatially distributed, in which method fault signals generated by the production units are supplied to a fault alarm box and the fault alarm box supplies a fault message to one or more receiving devices for receiving and indicating fault messages, characterized in that the production units form at least one group, in that the fault signals of the production units of a group are supplied to a data receiving unit, in that the data receiving units forward the fault signals of the respective group to the fault alarm box and in that the fault messages are additionally supplied to a process computer from the fault alarm box.

8. The fault message system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the fault signals of the production units are indicated by the data receiving unit.

9. The fault message system as claimed in claim 7 and 8, characterized in that the fault signals of the production units are edited in the fault alarm box for conversion into fault messages.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when it is present for a predetermined period of time.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when a particular period of time has elapsed since the last presence of the previous fault signal.

12. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims 7 to 11, characterized in that the forwarding of the fault message from the fault alarm box to the process computer and to the receiving devices takes place after different periods of time.